

products exported on and after January 1, 1999.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

**Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements**

December 21, 1998.

Commissioner of Customs,  
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on November 30, 1998, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive directs you to require that shipment quantities of textile and apparel products entered into the United States be stated on the visa in whole numbers only.

Effective on January 1, 1999, you are directed to exclude Bangladesh, Egypt, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey from this requirement. For these five countries, Customs will not deny visas solely because they have decimals or fractions. However, Customs will continue to charge in whole units, using standard rounding procedures.

The requirement for the use of whole numbers will be effective only for goods exported on and after January 1, 1999. For those countries in which the visa arrangement already requires the use of whole numbers, this requirement continues to apply.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 98-34328 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

**Request for Public Comments on a Request that the United States Consult with Mexico and Canada Concerning Short Supply of a Certain Polyester Filament Yarn**

December 22, 1998.

**AGENCY:** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

**ACTION:** Request for public comments concerning a request for consultations on a certain polyester filament yarn.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lori E. Mennitt, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Authority:** Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that CITA has been petitioned to initiate consultations with Mexico and Canada under Section 7(2) of Annex 300-B of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for the purpose of amending the NAFTA rules of origin for HTS subheading 5806.32 to allow the use of a certain non-North American 70 denier bright polyester filament yarn classified in HTS subheading 5402.43, in NAFTA originating goods.

There will be a 30-day comment period beginning on December 29, 1998 and extending through January 28, 1999. Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding domestic production or availability of this polyester filament yarn classified in HTS subheading 5402.43 is invited to submit 10 copies of such comments or information to Troy H. Cribb, Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; ATTN: Helen L. LeGrande.

Comments or information submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Office of Textiles and Apparel, room H3100, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

The solicitation of comments is not a waiver in any respect of the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1) relating to matters which constitute "a foreign affairs function of the United States."

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Information regarding the 1999 CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 98-34887 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

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**COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION**

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 7, 1999.

**PLACE:** 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 9th Floor Conference Room.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Enforcement Matters.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

**Catherine D. Dixon,**

*Assistant Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 98-34490 Filed 12-23-98; 4:44 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0041]

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding**

**AGENCIES:** Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding. The clearance currently expires on April 30, 1999.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted on or before March 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), 1800 F Street,

NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0041, Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding, in all correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ralph DeStefano, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-1758.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Purpose**

Two-step sealed bidding is a method of contracting designed to obtain the benefits of sealed bidding when adequate specifications are not available. An objective is to permit the development of a sufficiently descriptive and not unduly restrictive statement of the Government's requirements, including an adequate technical data package, so that subsequent acquisitions may be made by conventional sealed bidding. This method is especially useful in acquisitions requiring technical proposals, particularly those for complex items. It is conducted in two steps:

(a) Step 1 consists of the request for, submission, evaluation, and (if necessary) discussion of a technical proposal. No pricing is involved. The objective is to determine the acceptability of the supplies or services offered. As used in this context, the word "technical" has a broad connotation and includes, among other things, the engineering approach, special manufacturing processes, and special testing techniques. It is the proper step for clarification of questions relating to technical requirements.

(b) Step 2 involves the submission of sealed price bids by those who submitted acceptable technical proposals in step 1.

The requested information is needed, in the absence of adequate specifications, to develop a sufficiently descriptive and not unduly restrictive statement of the Government's requirements and to determine the acceptability of proposals received. The contracting officer evaluates the acceptability of the information received, based on the criteria in the request for proposals.

**B. Annual Reporting Burden**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 8 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents,

3,225; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 3,225; preparation hours per response, 8; and total response burden hours, 25,800.

**OBTAINING COPIES OF PROPOSALS:**

Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0041, Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding, in all correspondence.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

**Victoria E. Moss,**

*Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-34368 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0108]

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Bankruptcy**

**AGENCIES:** Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning Bankruptcy. The clearance currently expires on April 30, 1999.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted on or before March 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0108, Bankruptcy, in all correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Klein, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-3775.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Purpose**

Under statute, contractors may enter into bankruptcy which may have a significant impact on the contractor's ability to perform its Government contract. The Government often does not receive adequate and timely notice of this event. The clause at 52.242-13 requires contractors to notify the contracting officer within five days after the contractor enters into bankruptcy.

**B. Annual Reporting Burden**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents, 1,000; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 1,000; preparation hours per response, 1; and total response burden hours, 1,000.

**C. Annual Recordkeeping Burden**

The annual recordkeeping burden is estimated as follows: Recordkeepers, 1,000; hours per recordkeeper, .25; and total recordkeeping burden hours, 250.

**Obtaining copies of proposals:** Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0108, Bankruptcy, in all correspondence.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

**Victoria E. Moss,**

*Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-34369 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Department of the Army**

**Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Pilot Testing Neutralization/ Supercritical Water Oxidation of VX Agent at Newport Chemical Depot, Indiana**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.